

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

3 AARON MOULTRIE,

4 Plaintiff,

5 v.

6 RENOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL
7 CENTER,

8 Defendant.

3:21-cv-00264-MMD-CLB

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
OF U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE¹

9 Before the court is Plaintiff Aaron Moultrie's ("Plaintiff"), application to proceed *in*
10 *forma pauperis* (ECF No. 1), his *pro se* civil rights complaint (ECF No. 1-1), and his motion
11 for removal of device (ECF No. 3). For the reasons stated below, the court recommends
12 that Plaintiff's *in forma pauperis* application (ECF No. 1) be granted, his complaint (ECF No.
13 1-1) be dismissed, with prejudice, and his motion for removal of device (ECF No. 3) be
14 denied as moot.

15 **I. IN FORMA PAUPERIS APPLICATION**

16 A person may be granted permission to proceed *in forma pauperis* ("IFP") if the
17 person "submits an affidavit that includes a statement of all assets such [person] possesses
18 [and] that the person is unable to pay such fees or give security therefore. Such affidavit
19 shall state the nature of the action, defense or appeal and affiant's belief that the person is
20 entitled to redress." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1); *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1129 (9th Cir.
21 2000) (en banc) (stating 28 U.S.C. § 1915 applies to all actions filed IFP, not just prisoner
22 actions).

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26 ¹ This Report and Recommendation is made to the Honorable Miranda M. Du, United
27 States District Judge. The action was referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge pursuant
to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and LR IB 1-4.

1 The Local Rules of Practice for the District of Nevada provide: “Any person who is
 2 unable to prepay the fees in a civil case may apply to the court for authority to proceed [IFP].
 3 The application must be made on the form provided by the court and must include a financial
 4 affidavit disclosing the applicant’s income, assets, expenses, and liabilities.” LSR 1-1.

5 “[T]he supporting affidavit [must] state the facts as to [the] affiant’s poverty with some
 6 particularity, definiteness and certainty.” *U.S. v. McQuade*, 647 F.2d 938, 940 (9th Cir. 1981)
 7 (quotation marks and citation omitted). A litigant need not “be absolutely destitute to enjoy
 8 the benefits of the statute.” *Adkins v. E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co.*, 335 U.S. 331, 339
 9 (1948).

10 A review of the application to proceed IFP reveals Plaintiff cannot pay the filing fee;
 11 therefore, the court recommends that the application (ECF No. 1) be granted.

12 **II. SCREENING STANDARD**

13 Prior to ordering service on any defendant, the court is required to screen an *in forma*
 14 *pauperis* complaint to determine whether dismissal is appropriate under certain
 15 circumstances. *See Lopez*, 203 F.3d at 1126 (noting the *in forma pauperis* statute at 28
 16 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) requires a district court to dismiss an *in forma pauperis* complaint for
 17 the enumerated reasons). Such screening is required before a litigation proceeding *in forma*
 18 *pauperis* may proceed to serve a pleading. *Glick v. Edwards*, 803 F.3d 505, 507 (9th Cir.
 19 2015).

20 “[T]he court shall dismiss the case at any time if the court determines that – (A) the
 21 allegations of poverty is untrue; or (B) the action or appeal – (i) is frivolous or malicious; (ii)
 22 fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted; or (iii) seeks monetary relief against
 23 a defendant who is immune from such relief.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(A), (B)(i)-(iii).

24 Dismissal of a complaint for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted
 25 is provided for in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), and 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii)
 26 tracks that language. When reviewing the adequacy of a complaint under this statute, the
 27 court applies the same standard as is applied under Rule 12(b)(6). *See, e.g., Watison v.*

1 *Carter*, 668 F.3d 1108, 1112 (9th Cir. 2012) (“The standard for determining whether a
 2 plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted under § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii)
 3 is the same as the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) standard for failure to state a
 4 claim.”). Review under Rule 12(b)(6) is essentially a ruling on a question of law. *See Chappel*
 5 *v. Lab. Corp. of America*, 232 F.3d 719, 723 (9th Cir. 2000) (citation omitted).

6 The court must accept as true the allegations, construe the pleadings in the light most
 7 favorable to the plaintiff, and resolve all doubts in the plaintiff’s favor. *Jenkins v. McKeithen*,
 8 395 U.S. 411, 421 (1969) (citations omitted). Allegations in *pro se* complaints are “held to
 9 less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers[.]” *Hughes v. Rowe*, 449
 10 U.S. 5, 9 (1980) (internal quotations marks and citation omitted).

11 A complaint must contain more than a “formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause
 12 of actions,” it must contain factual allegations sufficient to “raise a right to relief above the
 13 speculative level.” *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007). “The pleading
 14 must contain something more. . . than. . . a statement of facts that merely creates a suspicion
 15 [of] a legally cognizable right of action.” *Id.* (citation and quotation marks omitted). At a
 16 minimum, a plaintiff should include “enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible
 17 on its face.” *Id.* at 570; *see also Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009).

18 A dismissal should not be without leave to amend unless it is clear from the face of
 19 the complaint the action is frivolous and could not be amended to state a federal claim, or
 20 the district court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the action. *See Cato v. United States*,
 21 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995); *O’Loughlin v. Doe*, 920 F.2d 614, 616 (9th Cir. 1990).

22 **III. SCREENING OF COMPLAINT**

23 In his complaint, Plaintiff sues Defendant Renown Regional Medical Center for
 24 unspecified claims and damages. (See ECF No. 1-1.) Plaintiff’s complaint relates to a
 25 “device” implanted in Plaintiff’s foot which can “read his thoughts and see whatever [he] can
 26 see.” (*Id.* at 2.) Plaintiff’s complaint is rambling, nonsensical, and filled with incomplete
 27 sentences. Dismissal on those grounds alone is appropriate. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure

1 8(a)(2) requires that a complaint contain “a short and plain statement of the claim showing
2 that the pleader is entitled to relief, in order to give the defendant fair notice of what the . . .
3 claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.” *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555 (quotation and
4 alteration omitted). It must also include “a demand for the relief sought. . . .” Fed. R. Civ. P.
5 8(a)(3). Here, Plaintiff’s largely incomprehensible narrative makes it nearly impossible for
6 the court to identify the factual or legal basis for his claims or the nature of his requested
7 relief. Plaintiff states no claim upon which relief may be granted, and given the vague nature
8 of the allegations, amendment would be futile. *See Cato*, 70 F.3d at 1106. Accordingly, the
9 court recommends the complaint be dismissed, with prejudice.

10 Additionally, the court recommends that Plaintiff’s motion for removal of device (ECF
11 No. 3) be denied as moot based on this Report and Recommendation.

12 **IV. CONCLUSION**

13 For the reasons articulated above, the court recommends that Plaintiff’s application
14 to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 1) be granted, his complaint (ECF No. 1-1) be
15 dismissed, with prejudice, as amendment would be futile, and his motion for removal of
16 device (ECF No. 3) be denied as moot.

17 The parties are advised:

18 1. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(c) and Rule IB 3-2 of the Local Rules of
19 Practice, the parties may file specific written objections to this Report and Recommendation
20 within fourteen days of receipt. These objections should be entitled “Objections to Magistrate
21 Judge’s Report and Recommendation” and should be accompanied by points and
22 authorities for consideration by the District Court.

23 2. This Report and Recommendation is not an appealable order and any notice
24 of appeal pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 4(a)(1) should not be filed until entry of the District
25 Court’s judgment.

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1 **V. RECOMMENDATION**

2 **IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED** that Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma*
3 *pauperis* (ECF No. 1) be **GRANTED**;

4 **IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED** that the Clerk **FILE** the complaint (ECF No. 1-1);

5 **IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED** that Plaintiff's complaint (ECF No. 1-1) be
6 **DISMISSED, WITH PREJUDICE**;

7 **IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED** that Plaintiff's motion for removal of device (ECF
8 No. 3) be **DENIED AS MOOT**; and,

9 **IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED** that this action be **CLOSED** and that judgment
10 be entered accordingly.

11 **DATED:** June 17, 2021.

12 
13 **UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**